

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15 and 17-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2, 9 and 16 are canceled and claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-12, 15 and 17-19 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21 are allowed. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claims 2, 9 and 16, respectively.

The Office Action objects to claims 4, 11 and 18 due to informalities. Claims 4, 11 and 18 are amended to obviate this objection.


The Office Action rejects claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,944,630 to Omote. This rejection is moot. As discussed above, claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claims 2, 9 and 16 respectively.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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